

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 AF-08

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1105

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: UNHCR APPEAL FOR RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFUGEES
IN ARGENTINA

REF: STATE 164771

1. MISSION CONTACTED UNHCR PER REFTTEL AND FOUND THAT TO
DATE RESPONSE TO APPEAL FOR RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA
LESS THAN OVERWHELMING.
2. NORWAY HAS RESPONDED AND PROMISES TO TAKE 50 REFUGEES.
SWITZWELAND, BEFORE APPEAL WAS MADE, OFFERED TO TAKE UNSPECIFIED
NUMBER. DETAILS FOR THIS ARRANGEMENT ARE CURRENTLY BEING WORKED OUT
IN ARGENTINA.
3. FRANCE AND DENMARK, WHILE NOT RESPONDING TO THIS SPECIFIC
APPEAL, CONTINUE, AS IN THE PAST, TO TAKE URGENT CASES AND THOSE
WHOSE LIVES MAY BE IN DANGER.
4. UNHCR OFFICIAL SAID HE EXPECTS FAVORABLE REPLY FROM AUSTRALIA,
UK, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS BUT REQUESTED THAT HIS SPECULATION
NOT REPEAT NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.
5. CANADA AND SWEDEN HAVE NOT ESPONDED TO APPEAL. HOWEVER,
THESE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN HIGHEST NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN
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PAST AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AS

MANY AS POSSIBLE.

6. IN LATIN AMERICA, CUBA HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT 12 FAMILIES.
IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THIS WAS A DECISION MADE IN DIRECT RESPONSE
TO THE APPEAL. PANAMA AND COLOMBIA ARE STUDYING THE REQUEST.
EQUADOR'S REPLY IS ENIGMATIC, SAYING THAT GOE WANTS ONLY CASES
WITH SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND. COSTA RICA HAS SAID NO TO THE
APPEAL AT THIS TIME.

7. UNHCR WILL FOLLOW-UP APPEAL WITH COMMUNICATIONS TO FIELD
REPS ASKING THAT THEY PRESS GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER RESETTLE-
MENT OF THE REFUGEES.DALE

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